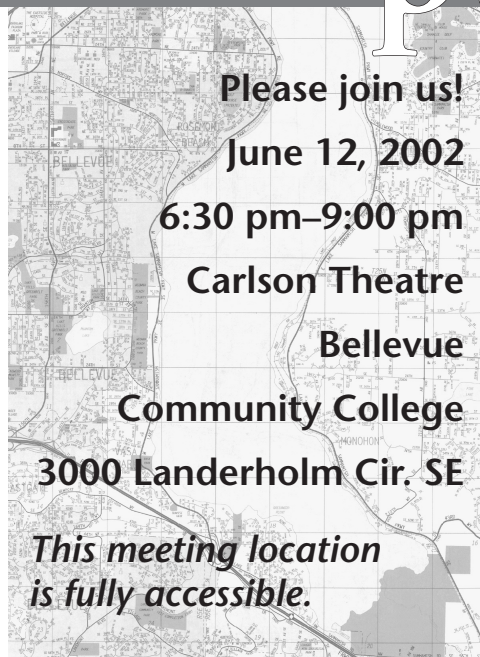


you're invited to the upcoming public hearing

east lake sammamish trail

Update

Spring 2002



www.metrokc.gov/dcfm/elst.htm

During the 45-day public comment period, King County will host a public hearing at the Carlson Theatre on the Bellevue Community College campus. Mark your calendars for June 12, 2002.

At the hearing, you will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the EA by giving your comments directly to a court reporter, or submitting written remarks on a comment form. Copies of the EA will be available for review at the hearing, but if you'd like to read through the document beforehand, copies are available at the King County Facilities Management Division, 500 Fourth Avenue, Room 320, in Seattle; and at public libraries in Bellevue, Issaquah, Redmond and Sammamish. In addition, copies are available for purchase at the King County Facilities Management Division for \$29.00.

The EA is available for review
at the following locations:

Facilities Management Division
King County Administration Bldg.
500 Fourth Avenue, Room 320
Seattle, WA

King County Parks
2040–84th Avenue SE
Mercer Island, WA

Bellevue Public Library
1111–110th Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA

Redmond Public Library
15810 NE 85th Street
Redmond, WA

Sammamish Public Library
825–228th Avenue NE
Sammamish, WA

Issaquah Public Library
120 E Sunset Way
Issaquah, WA

Environmental Assessment is released

In order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), King County prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Interim Trail Use and Resource Protection Plan and submitted it to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) via the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). FHWA issued the EA on May 10, 2002, at which time a 45-day comment period began.

We encourage you to comment on the EA at the public hearing on June 12, 2002 or send us your written comments. Please remember that all comments must be received no later than midnight on June 24, 2002. You can submit your written comments via U.S. mail, e-mail or facsimile.

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Master Plan &
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NEPA/SEPA

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East Lake Sammamish Trail Master Plan
King County Department of Executive Services
Facilities Management Division
Attn: Robin Cole
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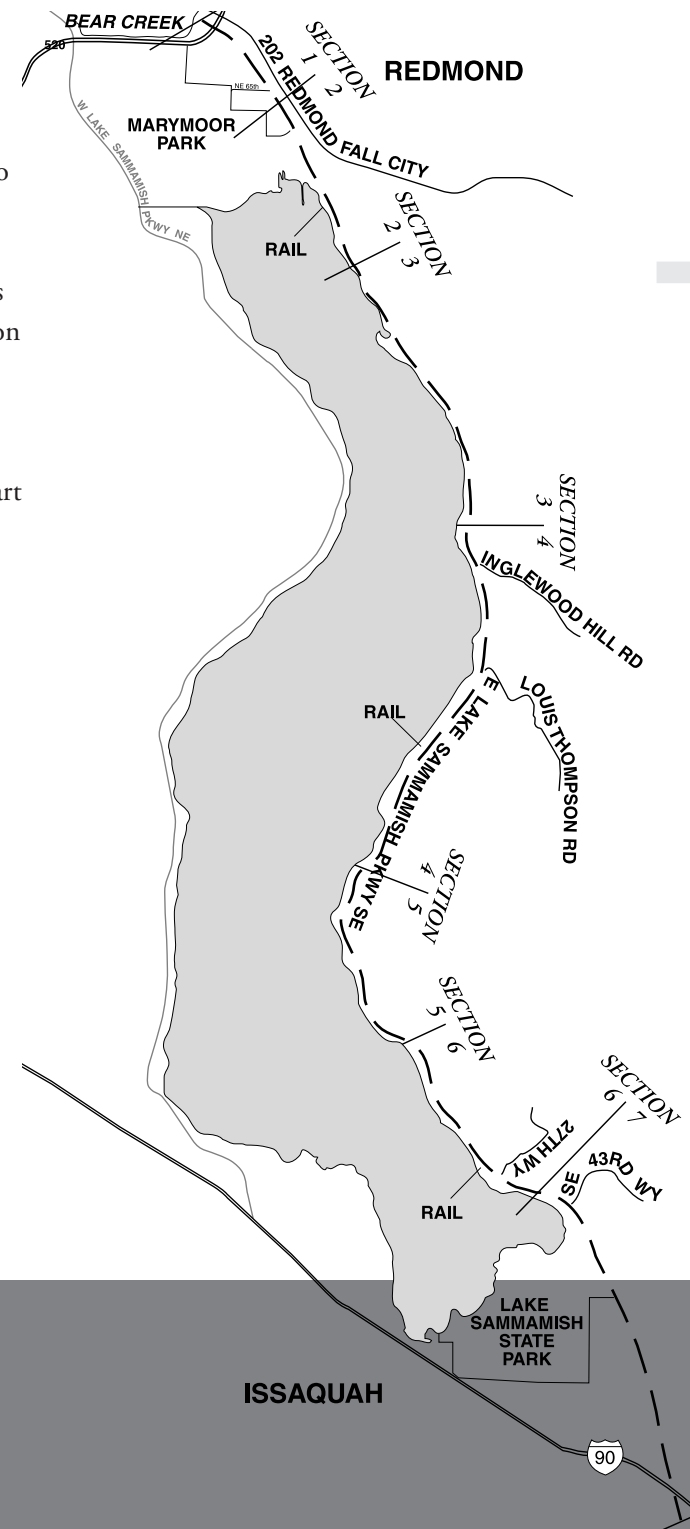
Interim Use Trail and Resource Protection Plan progress

After the East Lake Sammamish Trail Interim Use and Resource Protection Plan was adopted in December 2000, the project team went to work submitting permit applications and funding requests, preparing construction drawings and specifications, and meeting other local state and federal requirements necessary to open the Interim Use Trail. By Spring of 2001, all permit applications had been submitted.

A number of permits or approvals have now been issued by local jurisdictions and resource agencies including the Cities of Issaquah and Redmond, Washington State Department of Ecology, the Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Service, and United States Department of Fish and Wildlife. The City of Sammamish has also issued a Public Agency & Utility Exception (PAUE) decision, which conditionally approves placing gravel in five small wetlands as part of developing the Interim Trail. King County has appealed the decision because the conditions include costly mitigations for impacts that are not likely to occur.

Also in the Spring of 2001, to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), King County prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Interim Use Trail and Resource Protection Plan and submitted it to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) via the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). This assessment is similar to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for the Interim Trail under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), but is required separately for use of federal funds. FHWA has now issued the EA (see story on front of newsletter) and announced a public comment period. During this public comment period a public hearing will be held. FHWA will consider comment received and issue a decision, which could happen as early as this summer.

At this time, the possibility of opening the entire Interim Trail in 2002 is no longer feasible, but we are continuing our efforts to develop and open those portions of the trail that are fully permitted.



Trail Master Plan progress

King County was notified last fall that the Trail Master Plan would not be subject to a federal multi-agency NEPA/SEPA/404 Merger Process. In order to involve resource and local

agencies in the selection of alternatives for analysis in the Master Plan EIS, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has suggested the implementation of an Inter-Disciplinary Team (IDT). As a result, King County is preparing to invite representatives from the Cities of Redmond, Sammamish, and Issaquah and other state and resource agencies to the table to assist with the final selection of alternatives to be included in the Master Plan EIS.

IDT members will be briefed on the results of the scoping process (neighborhood meetings, user group meetings, agency meetings and open houses), and the purpose and need for the project. They will discuss alternative selection criteria, and use their individual areas of expertise to apply those criteria and recommend alternatives for inclusion in the Master Plan Trail EIS. In the meantime, project staff have been working to collect additional information necessary to develop the Rundle/Haro alignment alternative so that it will be ready for IDT review and consideration.

At present, the Draft NEPA/SEPA EIS on the Master Plan is anticipated to be complete in 2003. The Final EIS is anticipated to be issued in 2004 and the Master Plan adopted in 2004.



King County Facilities Management Division

Additional copies of this newsletter are available upon request.

Please call (206) 296-4121 or download a copy from the website at www.metrokc.gov/dfm/elst.htm. For TTY access, call the 711 Relay Service.

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, contact

Linda Dunlap at linda.dunlap@metrokc.gov.